

Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence is not a family problem or a private problem. It is a community problem. Hundreds of innocent victims die every year because Domestic Violence goes unreported. Statistics show that police intervention can help prevent future domestic-related violence. Howard County Police need community involvement to end domestic violence.

If you witness or hear Domestic Violence, please call 911. If you receive information that someone is a victim of Domestic Violence, please call Howard County Police at (410) 313-2200

What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic Violence and emotional abuse are behaviors used by one partner in a relationship to control the other. Partners may be married, living together, separated, or dating; heterosexual, gay, or lesbian.

What Constitutes Abuse?

Examples of abuse include name-calling or put-downs, keeping a partner from contacting family or friend, withholding money, stopping a partner from getting or keep a job, actual or threatened physical harm, sexual assault, stalking or intimidation. Violence can be criminal and include physical assault (hitting, pushing, shoving, etc.), sexual assault (unwanted or forced sexual activity) or stalking. Although emotional abuse, psychological abuse, and financial abuse are not criminal behaviors, they are forms of abuse and can lead to criminal violence. The violence takes many forms and can happen all the time or once in a while.

Who can be a victim of Domestic Violence?

Victims can be of any age, gender, race, culture, sexual orientation, religion, education, employment, or marital status.

What should I do if I am in an abusive relationship?

If you are being abused, remember: You are not alone. It is not your fault. Help is available – contact local police!

Domestic Violence Resources and Contact Information for Howard County, Maryland

- In the event of an emergency, call the police at 911
- If there was an arrest made in your incident or you are considering placing criminal charges on a person, you may contact the Howard County State's Attorney's Office at (410) 313-3100
- If you are considering obtaining a Peace / Protection Order on a person, you may contact the Howard County Sheriff's Office at (410) 313-2150
- If you have questions about the services available to victims of domestic violence or would like to speak with a representative of the Domestic Violence Center of Howard County, you may call their 24 hour helpline at (410) 997-2272. You may also visit their website at www.dvcenter.org for valuable information relating to domestic violence

- If you need assistance or have questions regarding depression, mental health or chemical dependency issues, you may contact Grassroots Crisis Intervention on their 24 hour hotline at (410) 531-6677 / (800) 422-0009 or visit www.grassrootscrisis.org
- If you have any questions in reference to the Howard County Police Department's response to a domestic related incident or would like to speak with a Domestic Violence Detective, you may contact the Domestic Violence Section at (410) 313-3741